

Mother MIDNIGHT'S MISCELLANY.

CONTAINING,

More than all the Wit, and all the Humour, and all the Learning, and all the Judgment, that has ever been, or ever will be. Likewise the Discovery of an unknown World; with some Account of the Religion, Customs, Manners, and Ceremonies of the GLUMS and GAWRYS, Men and Women that FLY: With the Marriage-Ceremony of a LYING MAN to a FLYING WOMAN, and many other extraordinary Events, which ought never to be forgotten. First discover'd by SELIM, in a Vision, on the Hills of Bagdat, on the sixth Day of the fourth Moon, *Anno Mundi*, 5791.

Dedicated to the King of the Fiddlers, and to his Queen, and to the *Great Mogul's* Jester, and to the greatest Conjuror in all *Lapland*, and to *Bajazet* the famous Race-Horse, and to the Ghost of *Black and All Black*, &c. &c. &c.

By MARY MIDNIGHT,
Midwife to all the Inhabitants of this Cosmos, and to the Choice Spirits in the Elysian Shades.

Publish'd (which she always observes) in Conformity to several Acts of Parliament, and by Permission of their Most Christian and Most Catholick Majesties, the Great Mogul, and the States General.

L O N D O N

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Other Minutes

DEDICATION

To the King of the Adlers and
to his chosen and to the
great thought's better and to
the greatest country in the
world and to the people of the
world



THE DEDICATION
of the United States of America
to the King of the Adlers and
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DEDICATION.

To the king of the fidlers, and
to his queen, and to the
great mogul's jester, and to
the greatest conjurer in all
Lapland, and to Bajazet the
famous race-horse, and to
the ghost of Black and All
Black, &c. &c. &c.

ILLUSTRIOUS SPIRITS,

FROM the very dawn of my life I
have been an admirer of the writings
of the immortal Sir Isaac Newton;
and often wish'd, that I could roam
through all the quarters of the universal sys-
tem, to see whether his principles of attrac-
tion and gravitation prevail'd throughout the
whole.

B

My

vi DEDICATION.

My wishes were at last, in some measure, happily granted; for one star-light night, as I was taking a view of Venus with my spectacles, attended by my boy with his lanthorn, a good Genius, whose form and air bespoke him more than mortal, thus accosted me: "Thou daughter of wisdom, I have been long charm'd with thy ardent pursuit after knowledge, and am come to give thee consolation. — Here, take this packet — It contains the vision of Selim, on the high hills of Bagdat — Esteem it as an inestimable treasure, as it contains the discovery of an unknown world."

I took it with the utmost transport, which occasion'd the breaking of my spectacles; and was going to return thanks for this extraordinary favour, but the Genius was vanish'd out of my sight.

Finding myself in possession of the packet, I order'd my boy to light me home; where I examin'd its contents, and found it full of wonders. To you therefore (and who more fit?) do I dedicate this vision of Selim's, with the rest of the choice pieces contain'd in this my Miscellany; and, if they should be so fortunate as to gain your approbation, I shall never think all my wit, and all my learning, and all my judgment, and all my study, and all my knowledge, spent in vain.

M. MIDNIGHT.

VI DEDICATION

**Mother MIDNIGHT'S
MISCELLANY.**

The journal of a modern beau.

✂ Though this is call'd "The Journal of
"a Modern Beau;" yet, if any one has an
objection to this title, and can give it a bet-
ter, it shall be chang'd in some of the fu-
ture editions; provided such critic gives
good reasons for such alteration, and brings
sufficient vouchers that he is of sound mind,
and a person of wit and penetration——For
though I am old, and can't see without
spectacles, yet I have neither the acid, or
much self-sufficiency in my constitution——
If I should not hear of any objection to it,
I shall conclude the title to be very pro-
per; and that this (as well as all my other
works) has been receiv'd with universal ap-
probation.

probation.—Please to observe, courteous reader, that though this journal is continu'd but one week; yet, you will find there is no necessity to continue it for a longer time, if you reflect, That these *unburied dead* are incapable of doing a worthy action, and this small glass presents you with their follies in epitome. In short, if ever I know sorrow (which is not very often) it is because my office (being a midwife) requires me to bring such *trifles* into the world; and I doubt not but you also weep sometimes, that death does not take them sooner out of it.—I could say a great many more very fine things on this head, but am at present prevented by a violent stitch in my side, a disorder I am often afflicted with.

SUNDAY MORNING.

CALL'D for chocolate at eleven. Sent Pompey, my black, to pay beau Basset twenty guineas, lost last night at picquet. Dress'd by one. Call'd for my chariot and six. Went to chapel. Greatly fatigu'd.—Memorandum, To enquire where lord Huff bought his sword-knot.

Din'd at five at lady Faddle's, with lord Dresswell and beau Caper. Intolerably tormented

mented with justice Scale's smoking tobacco.—Memorandum, To have my cloaths scented in the morning.

Supp'd with Fanny, at her lodgings. Paid her the week's arrears, ten guineas. In bed by one.—Memorandum, To send to Hudson, to draw Fanny's picture.

MONDAY MORNING.

Wak'd by eleven. Read, in bed, two acts of the Suspicious Husband. Character of Ranger very like B—— B——. Breakfasted with Sig. C——. Play'd over the duet in Ofaro.—Memorandum, To speak to T—— J—— to write a song in praise of Fanny. Paid Windle, the perfumer, twenty pounds, for perfume and snuff. Spoke to Pompey to dency me to Toby, the jockey.

Din'd at White's. Subscrib'd to Vauxhall. Drank tea with Fanny. Went to Covent-Garden playhouse. Slept at the Revenge. Amus'd at Harlequin's going into the quart bottle.—Memorandum, Lord Tawdry's buckles false stones. Receiv'd a letter from nurse at Islington.—Memorandum, To send her a quarter's wages by Frank, the stage coachman. In bed at two.

TUESDAY

TUESDAY MORNING.

Drank chocolate, in bed, at eleven.

Din'd at home, with Lord Sparkish. Had dinner from the Devil. Got my Turkish habit for this night's masquerade.—Note, Fanny's habit is trimm'd with red. Drank Congo at White's. Went to the masquerade. Knew widow G——, by her ring. Drank some Tokay at the side-board with Fanny. Went home with Fanny, and drank some Congo. In bed by three.—Memorandum, To buy some dessert-knives, at Deard's, for Fanny.—Some cosmetics, bad for the complexion.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

Drank chocolate, and read the play-bills. Went in an undress to Foote's. Lady Betty ogled me. Went to the Park. Saw Will Thompson walking with an opera-singer.—Memorandum, To enquire where he lodges. Tom Rogers gave me a concert-ticket for Galli's benefit. Dress'd.

Din'd with Lord Dresswell.—Note, To enquire where he buys the paste for his hands.—Memorandum, La Cour, jeweller, in Pall-Mall, made Jack Gliffen's shoe-buckles. Went to Drury-Lane playhouse, and saw the
Conscious

Conscious Lovers. Lady Betty ogled me end
of the third act. The play damn'd stupid.
Diverted at Miss in her Teens. Jack Pry
inform'd me that Lady Betty enquir'd my
name. She will be at the opera.—Memo-
randum, To be there, and put on my bro-
cade.

Supp'd at the Rose, with T— J—. He
gave me the song. Gave him ten guineas.—
Note, To put my name to it, and to give a
copy to Lady Telltale, and one to Jack
Noisy.—Memorandum, To consider if S—,
A—, or B— shall set it to music, and give
it to T—. Read four pages of Con. Phil-
lips's Memoirs. Drank some Spaw. Went to
bed. Could not sleep, thinking of Lady
Betty.

THURSDAY MORNING.

At eleven drank Hyson. Hum'd over a
song in Solomon. Practis'd Will Irish's new
bow. Dress'd. Went to Deard's. Bought
some knives and forks, and a pebble snuff-box
for Fanny. Came home at two. Play'd over
some of Stanley's last new cantata's on the
harpsichord. Pug leap'd on it, and broke
two strings.—Memorandum, To send for Ma-
hoone to mend it.

Din'd

Din'd at Lord Heartfree's. Won fifty guineas of Bob Short and Frank Spritely, at Picquet.----Memorandum, Fresh Lavender Water at the Cocoa-Tree chocolate-house.----Note, To enquire who wrote the song that Bob sung after dinner. Went to Fanny's, and play'd at cards. Lost five guineas. Read some of Clarissa.---Memorandum, To enquire of Tom Johnson if it would not make a good tragedy. Drank some Hyson. Went to bed at two.

FRIDAY MORNING.

At eleven read some of Tom Jones. Went to Fanny's. Took a hack. Breakfasted at Ranelagh.----Memorandum, To enquire who is Lord Lurewell's taylor. At home by two. Sent for my taylor. Bespoke an embroider'd waistcoat. Paid Gravestock, the laceman, thirty pounds for lace. Receiv'd a card from Lady Tattle, to go to Drury-Lane.

Din'd with Tom Johnson at Pontack's. Bought some china for Fanny. Dress'd. Went with Lady Tattle to the Stratagem.---Memorandum, To speak to my taylor, to lace my new liveries in the same manner of G---'s, in Archer.

Supp'd with Lady Tattle, and her daughter. She buys her Bergamot in the Hay-Market.

Market. Went home at twelve. Put on my night-gloves. Pompey inform'd me, that pug had tore my French grammer.—Memorandum, To have one bound in Turkey, and gilt. Lady Tattle's daughter very handsome, but ill-shap'd. My last Bergamot musty.—Memorandum, To order Tam to put the new black feather in my hat. Wash'd my face with the oil of pearls, and beautifying fluid. Went to bed at two.

SATURDAY MORNING.

Drank some chocolate. Walk'd in the Park in my blue and gold. Return'd at two. Sent for the hair-curler.

Din'd at home. Order'd my servants to wear their new liveries this evening. Drank Hyson. Dress'd in my brocade. Put the new diamond button and loop in my hat. Went to the opera. Sat in the box with Lady Betty, who continually fix'd her eyes on me.

Supp'd at the Bedford-Arms.—Memorandum, To enquire what she said of me to Lady Tattle next day. Went home. In bed by two. Dream'd of her all night.—Memorandum, To enquire her fortune of Sir R——K——, her uncle. Dine to-morrow at Lady Tattle's, and sup with Fanny.

A very wise and learned enquiry, concerning the antiquity, excellence, and usefulness, of that melodious musical instrument, call'd, a
HURDY - GURDY.

*Music has charms to sooth a savage beast,
 To soften rocks, or bend a knotted oak.
 I've read, that things inanimate have mov'd;
 And, as with living souls, have been inform'd
 By magic numbers, and persuasive sound.*

CONGREVE.

To all lovers of antiquity, and to all lovers of novelty, and to all who have any curiosity, and to all whom it may concern.

GENTLEMEN and LADIES,

MY brother, * Fustian Sackbut, having search'd into the antiquity of that curious musical instrument, call'd, a **J E W S - H A R P**;

* Vid. the preface to his ode on St. Cæcilia's day.

HARP; I, to shew my capacity equal (at least) to his, shall point out an instrument to you, of much more harmony, and of greater antiquity; I mean the HURDY - GURDY: by some (tho' ironically) call'd, a *Hum-Strum*.

Such men, (I had almost said, such monsters) who have souls incapable of being mov'd by the profoundest harmony, raise my indignation; and I should treat them as they justly deserve, were I not at a loss for words sufficient for my resentment. Let me therefore make use of that beautiful passage of the poet on this occasion:

*The man who has no music in himself,
And is not mov'd with concords of sweet sounds,
Is fit for treasons, stratagems, and spoils.*

Having done, at present, with those mean souls who speak with contempt of this curious instrument, I shall now acquaint you with its antiquity, and give a hint of its usefulness both in war and peace; in times of danger, as well as in hours of joy.

My brother Sackbut attempts to prove the antiquity of the Jews-Harp, no higher than the time of David; but I have heard a very learned antiquarian say (who was a man of veracity) that he heard his father say, that
he

he heard his grandfather say, that he heard his great grandfather say, that he heard the emperor of China's elephant-driver say, that he saw the cub of the elephant that carried the learned Chan Chimbo, librarian to the then emperor; who has been often heard to say, that the HURDY - GURDY was the invention of that venerable sage Oflan Otango, (so famous in the Chinese chronicles) Anno Mundi, one hundred and twenty-five; and that this instrument was us'd in China upon all solemn and joyous occasions, with universal applause.

Here, you see, I have plainly gain'd my point; having prov'd the antiquity of this instrument many centuries before the JEW-SHARP was so much as thought of: and he that won't credit the authority I have quoted, must call my friend, the antiquarian, a lyer! must dispute the veracity of his father; must doubt the truth of his grandfather! must call the assertion of his great grandfather in question! must give the lye to the emperor of China's elephant-driver! must disbelieve the report of the learned Chan Chimbo! and, lastly, must imagine there never was such a man as Oflan Otango, tho' he be recorded in the chronicles of China!

Permit me, now, to speak of the excellence of this instrument; and to give a hint of its

its usefulness in times of danger, as well as in hours of joy.

And, first, of its excellence, as a musical instrument. I find from the authority before-mention'd, that this instrument had but one string for near three thousand years; and, as no mention was made of the Chinese adding the other two, I must attribute the honour of this improvement to the British nation; who, tho' not good at invention, are great improvers of the inventions of others. Who was the surprizing genius that made this important discovery, I am still incapable of informing you; but I promise to find him out, tho' I rake over all the rubbish of antiquity-- If any of the learned can inform me, he shall meet with a reward adequate to the profundity of his wisdom.

Oh! Ossan Otango! thy praise shall fill the mouths of all lovers of harmony, as long as there is one atom of sand in the hourglass of time.—Who could have thought such an invention could ever have enter'd the heart of man! — That the limb of a tree, (without tormenting it, by tearing out its bowels) with a string of catgut, and a bladder, should be capable of producing so much harmony, if but touch'd by a masterly hand!

As

As for its tone, it is known, by all judges of musick, far to exceed the Jews-Harp, the * Mock-Daw, or any of those instruments which were anciently in use, but have now justly yielded to the superior harmony of this — And tho' the harpsichord and spinnet, the Welch and bell harps, the dulcimer, bass viol, fiddle, and other string-instruments, claim some regard from the curious; yet time, which this instrument has stood the test of, will make them share the same fate also.

Tho' I were to live for many ages, I could never give this instrument sufficient praise — But 'tis matter of great consolation to me, that all degrees of musicians, from H — down to the scraper in a barn, know there is much more merit in the Hurdy - Gurdy, than they, with all their art, either alone, or in consultation, can possibly find out; and therefore modestly decline the use of an instrument, which they could never perform on to any degree of advantage, and whose excellence would be the lanthorn to their ignorance.

Now let me shew its usefulness in another capacity — I can't but think, it would be a political scheme for a nation to bring the soldiery up to be performers on this instrument; for,
in

* This instrument is made with part of a walnut shell, a piece of parchment, and a horse-hair; and on which, in my youthful days, I was reckon'd a very great performer.

in times of danger, 'tis but taking off the bladders and strings, and they are furnish'd with weapons sufficient to knock their enemies on the head; and, in case of a victory, 'twould be but putting them on again, and then the whole army, in token of triumph, might play on them in concert.

I fancy I have prov'd, beyond all contradiction, that this is not only the most ancient, but the best instrument in use; nay, its antiquity, and the country it was invented in, sufficiently silence all gain-sayers: for every one knows (that knows more than a starling) that the Chinese are the most ingenious people upon the face of the earth; and its continuing in vogue for some thousands of years, shows we esteem it very highly. — But tho' it should continue in use to the end of the world (which I think we have no reason to doubt) we shall never be able to discover all its numberless excellencies!

The VISION of SELIM.

IT has long been my custom to set apart the sixth day of every moon for a holy-day. This was also the custom of my forefathers. Accordingly, on the sixth day of the fourth moon, in the year of the Hegira one thousand one hundred and sixteen, after my usual ablution, I ascended the high hills of Bagdat. My mind was full of contemplation. I look'd on the earth, then turn'd my eyes towards the clouds, and beheld each with a mixture of wonder and delight. I then began to consider, whether this was the only habitable world; or whether there were more worlds, peopled by beings of our nature and state.

In the midst of these my contemplations, I found a surprizing heaviness on my senses; and, at length, the Genius of sleep seal'd my eyes. They were no sooner clos'd, than methought I saw the ocean, and a ship thereon in the utmost distress, which immediately beat with great violence against a rock, and was dash'd in pieces. I imagin'd that every one on board must inevitably perish; but how great was my surprize, when I beheld one of the unfortunate wretches deliver'd from this danger? I found he ow'd his deliverance to his
good

good Genius, who had conducted him thro' a subterraneous cavern in the rock, and had brought him into a world hitherto unknown.

When he was got safe to land, he seem'd under the greatest perplexity in what manner to provide for his future subsistence. At length, casting his eyes around him, he saw, as he thought, a woman lying on the ground. He went towards her, found her very beautiful, and that she exactly resembled the human species, only she had the addition of a large pair of wings.

A sight so uncommon struck him with astonishment, and the man was motionless as a statue for a considerable time: but, recovering himself, he took her gently by the arm and felt her pulse, which inform'd him she was not dead. He immediately pull'd out a penknife, and let her blood. She bled very freely, open'd her eyes, and soon after was restor'd to the use of her reason.

The amazement of the woman, when she was perfectly recover'd, is not to be express'd. She imagin'd she had rose from the dead, and that the man who stood before her was the deity who had wrought the miracle. She offer'd to kneel to him; which he not permitting, she danc'd round him, and us'd a thousand antick gestures.

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At

At length, by fundry motions, he made her understand that he was greatly in want of food. She immediately took wing; and, in a small space, flew out of his sight. Despair was painted on his countenance; for he had no prospect of subsistence, but by her means: besides, his bosom was inspir'd with the tenderest passion.

While he was loading himself with reproaches for permitting her to escape; he, to his inexpressible joy, saw her flying towards him. She brought plenty of provisions, and they both regal'd themselves by the sea shore. After partaking of this repast, he made signs of thankfulness for the favour; and gave her to understand, that she would lay him under the highest obligation, if by any means she could conduct him to the place of her birth. She immediately took wing again; and, in a little time, flew to him, attended by four men, who were furnish'd with wings likewise.

After a pause of wonder, the men put him into a kind of a net; and, drawing it up like a purse, ty'd the strings (which were four) round their bodies, and flew away with him; the woman flying just under the net, least the strings should break, and it should fall to the ground.

When they arriv'd, and had taught him a little of their language, they acquainted him that

that their country was call'd the country of the Glums and Gawrys; and that all the inhabitants, both men and women, were furnish'd with wings, which enabled them either to swim or fly. He then acquainted them with his shipwreck, his going through a subterraneous passage, the manner of his finding the gawry (or flying woman) and the method he made use of to restore her to her senses.

Some time being spent in mirth, the marriage of this man and the gawry was to be solemnized. Accordingly, great preparations were made on this occasion, and the friends of the gawry accompany'd them to the mosque. The building was a Rotunda. It had but one door, which was very large; but was never open'd, unless for the royal family, or on some very extraordinary occasion: the common people flying in at apertures which were made for that purpose round the dome, as well as for the admission of light and air. Finding it would be a difficult matter to get him in at these apertures, they obtain'd leave of the king for the door to be open'd for him only; the rest being oblig'd to enter at the apertures, as usual.

This mosque was very capacious within, and adorn'd with various decorations. In the midst stood an idol, resembling him which the infidels call Mercury, having wings at his head
and

and feet. The marriage ceremony consisted of the assembly's bowing and prostrating themselves before this idol, and the priest's praying to it, for the increase of the young couple's family; after which they gave three hideous shouts, and clapp'd their wings, in token of joy.

The ceremony being over, they return'd to the house of the parents of the espoused gawry, where an elegant entertainment was provided, consisting of fish and fowl, both which they catch here in great plenty.

After the rejoicings on this occasion were ended, I took some observations of this strange country, and its inhabitants. The king, whose curiosity excited him to see this wonder of a man, was about ten feet high, and look'd very majestick. The height of the common people was about six feet, but the women were rather less. The men seem'd hardy, strong, active, well-made, and valiant: the women well-featur'd, lively, affable, and lovely. Both men and women could live in the water as well as on the land, being of an amphibious nature; and would fly in the air, swifter than an eagle.

The country was very fruitful, the air healthful, and the sky bright and serene. The houses were built with wood, but none of them, except the king's, were permitted to have a door;

door; so that they were oblig'd to fly in at apertures, which were made for that purpose. The husband of the gawry was permitted to have an aperture at the bottom of the house, near the ground.

After awhile, the gawry died, and her friends burnt her body, after the custom of the country. Her husband took leave of his relations, and went to the sea-side; where he saw a ship, and embark'd on board of her. They met with no accident at sea; but, as soon as they landed, he fell to the ground. I was under violent depression of spirits at this sight; and cry'd out, with great emotion, "Oh! the Genius of death hath stricken that man!" And immediately awoke, and found it to be a dream.

An EPIGRAM.

WHAT charms in Anna's fingers lie,
Which ease her grief, or joy inspire!
With them she wipes the tearful eye;
With them she strikes the mirthful lyre.

A sigh

A sigh to CLOE.

WHILE anxious cares my thoughts molest'
 I care not to lie down to rest,
 But hug the galling chains:
 For should kind fate these cares remove,
 And Cloe still obdurate prove,
 My greatest care remains.

PARAPHRAS'D.

A Mighty pain to love it is ;
 And 'tis a pain, that pain to miss :
 But, of all pains, the greatest pain
 It is to love, and love in vain.

On CLOE naked.

IF naked Clo' was e'er expos'd to view,
 'Twas to the painter who her picture drew ;
 But him like Semele the * godhead fir'd,
 He saw her stripp'd, and instantly expir'd.

* Bacchus.

F I N I S.



